ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Two-Laning of roads in hilly areas

*401. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified 5,000 kms. for two-laning in remote hilly areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the projects that would be taken up for two-laning in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: I would like to know...

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट, आप बैठ जाइए, मेरी सुन लीजिए। क्वेश्चन आवर खत्म होने के बाद ये जितने भी मैटर्स लिए हैं, उन पर मैं आपसे चर्चा करूंगा और तय कर लूंगा उसी समय ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: *

श्री सभापति: यह मंत्री जी, सब यहीं हैं, आप बैठ जाइए।

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: I would like to know whether the Government proposes to develop 7,603 kms. road link to reach every nook and corner of any region. I would like to know whether the Government has similar proposal for Orissa State to link the tribal belt to generate employment with a view to improve the economy of this backward region. Is the Government aware of the fact that the State of NH-6 between Sambalpur and Keonjhar is in a very bad condition? I would like to know whether there is any proposal to upgrade and repair and for better upkeep of this portion which is used by heavy commercial traffic, for carrying minerals like iron ore and coal, and, if so, what is the time-frame for this?

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*Not recorded.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Madam has asked a specific question whether the Government has identified 5,000 kms. for two-laning in remote hilly areas of this country. The question pertains to 5,000 kms of road laying in remote hilly area. As far as the remote hilly area is concerned, we are not having any specific programme for remote hilly areas. But at the same time, in the National Highways Development Project of IV A, we have identified some stretches of about 5000 kms which is yet to be approved by the competent authority. As far as Orissa is concerned, definitely, some of the roads stretches are in a very bad shape and we will be taking it up in due course in the ensuing programme of IV A.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: What is the progress of work in N.H.201 between Borigumma and Bargarh which runs through the K.B.K. Districts and hilly regions and when it is likely to be completed? Has the four-laning work between Chhattisgarh Border and Sambalpur in Orissa on N.H. No. 6 been taken up and what is the schedule for its completion?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as the National Highway No. 201 between Junagarh Sanitala is concerned, 97 kms is being considered. But at the same time, I would say that the road density is very, very low. In spite of that, we will be taking up this work in IV A.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, as far as 5000 kms two laning proposal which the hon. Minister referred to is concerned, on 27th January, a major national financial newspaper reported that the Ministry is preparing this proposal for Cabinet approval by March. Since it has not happened by March, it is raising a lot of concerns in States like Orissa where we have hilly regions, which are affected by Naxalites, and specifically I refer to Mankangiri District where this kind of two-laning will have a tremendously positive impact. I would like an assurance from the hon. Minister whether this can be expedited and I would like to know in what time frame this proposal can be expected to be put before Cabinet.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as this particular District is concerned, there are National Highways, there are State Highways. I do not know which highway hon. Member Mr. Panda was referring to ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B.J. PANDA: It is in hilly areas. Would this cover hilly areas? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: This 5000 kms is yet to be approved. It is to be

approved by the competent authority, Sir. If he has any specific National Highway number or anything like that, I can answer his question.

SHRI NABAM REBIA: Sir, the Himalayan MPs Forum has mooted a proposal for construction of road from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken in this regard?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the supplementary by the hon. Member does not come within the ambit of this specific question at all.

श्री ओ॰टी॰ लेपचा: सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि सिलिगुड़ी से गंगटोक जाने का जो रास्ता है, वह सिक्किम की एकमात्र लाइफलाइन है- नैशनल हाईवे नम्बर 31, क्या इसे two-lane करने की कोई योजना सरकार के पास है या नहीं? यदि है तो इसे कब तक कार्यान्वित किया जाएगा और यदि नहीं है तो इसका क्या कारण है, इसका यथोचित उत्तर देंगे तो अच्छा होगा।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the two-lane programme will definitely be taken up once the total scheme of IV A is approved.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, my question relates to the remote hilly areas of the North-Eastern Region and very specifically I want to know about Tripura. The hon. Prime Minister is here. The hon. Prime Minister when he had been to Tripura gave an assurance that there would a four-lane highway, in fact, linking up from the Assam Border up to Agartala. A large part of that goes through the remote hilly areas. Not only has that not been done, Sir, even the two-lanes from the State Capital which is part of the North-Eastern Region Package which has been assured by the Government, even that question of two-lane highway, Tripura has been put in Phase-B of the Programme. Now, after the intervention they have been put in Phase-A of the programme. Still there is absolutely no progress at all. So, my first question to the hon. Minister is if he is aware of the assurance given in Tripura for the four-lane highway and secondly, what is the progress of the two-lane highway from Churaibari up to Agartala.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Recently, when I met the hon. Chief Minister of Tripura I had promised to see that Churaibari to Agartala Road would be laid as quickly as possible. We are taking proper action and it will be expedited quickly.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, is there any time frame? We have

been waiting for a long time. Can you give us any time frame as to how quickly it will be done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Shri Rudra Narayan Pany.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It has to pass through some process. Only by due process of DPR...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: You informed about this one year earlier also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: If you go strictly, we cannot take it because there is no density. Since the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Chief Minister relied on my Department, I am taking it up; otherwise, it cannot be done. There is no density at all.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: What is this? Sir, we don't have anything for hilly areas. There is no question of density here. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot force him to reply, as you like. I cannot force him. Please don't disturb. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, let the remote hilly areas of the country be told that since there is no density of population. ...(*Interruptions*)... What is the approach of this Government? Sir, I do not understand. We want remote hilly areas to be linked up. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: This is a matter of attitude. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. If anybody speaks without my permission it will not go on record. Nothing will go on record.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय, गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले सबसे ज्यादा हम हैं, उड़ीसा के लोग सबसे गरीब हैं। मैंने एक प्रश्न दिया था और वह अतारांकित प्रश्न में आया है।

श्री सभापति: क्वेश्चन पर आ जाएं।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: महोदय, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग के अनुरक्षण और मरम्मत के लिए कितना पैसा पिछले पांच साल में उड़ीसा को दिया गया है। यह मैंन प्रश्न किया था जो अतारांकित प्रश्नों में आया है। 2003 और 2004 में 51 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया था। लेकिन 2004-2005 में जब से यू०पी०ए०

के माननीय प्रधान मंत्री हैं, सिर्फ 33 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया। एक साल के अंदर 51 करोड़ से 18 करोड़ घटाया गया। उड़ीसा की साथ कैसा भेदभाव होता है। महोदय, मेरा आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह प्रश्न है कि जो रांची-विजयवाड़ा के प्रस्तावित राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग की अब क्या स्थिति है और क्या अब वह होगा या नहीं होगा या वह केवल पौलिटिकल स्टंट है? माननीय बालू जी, कृपा करके सदन को बताएं।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as this Government is concerned, actully the Member has put a question pertaining to C.R.F. There is no dearth of funds. The particular State Government has to spend the money; they have to send the Utilisation Certificate. Then only we will send the money. But, at the same time, even though this is not relevant to this question, I want to tell my friend that there is no dearth of funds, but they have to send the Utilisation Certificates.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: यह तो उड़ीसा से संबंधित प्रश्न है।

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, various projects for four-laning are going on very well in the country under the leadership of the Prime Minister. People are happy; people in this country are happy. Whatever Mr. Pany may be saying is out of his frustration. Now, my question is...

श्री सभापति: अब उनको शांत किया, उनका आप नाम क्यों ले रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, the four-laning project is going on very well. May I know from him if various State governments are undertaking two-lane projects for district roads? In this connection, they have also prepared various schemes. Are you going to give any financial assistance to the State Government for two-laning of district roads?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as such, there is no plan to finance a two-lane district road. Our domain is to take care of the National Highways, which is 59000 kms.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Mumbai Port Trust

*402. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra have sought direction to Mumbai Port Trust to work jointly with the former for